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Executive Registry
70-376/2

6 NOV 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
Programs Evaluation

John:

In the DCI's letter to DIRNSA of 5 August 1970 concerning COINS, he stated that CIA was undertaking a concerted effort to sort out its Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) posture. The problem has now been studied exhaustively. The examination included not only a study of the security issues which have inhibited full participation, but also the utility of COINS to CIA in comparison with the DoD requirement to link computers and files together.

We understand the need for DoD components to rapidly exchange and access data, such as [redacted] and other files which they have put in COINS. CIA has benefited from DoD file-building efforts in this area, but our needs are largely satisfied by getting published and magnetic tape copies of the DoD product. We concluded, therefore, that the benefits to CIA from participation in a network of computers are disproportionately low when measured against the manpower and machine costs involved.

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We have decided that CIA will continue participation in COINS by providing and maintaining copies of desired machine files either now in existence or subsequently created for regular operational use in the Agency. CIA Headquarters will retain a capability to access COINS files located externally by linking a few terminals directly to the DoD network, as the State Department and NPIC do now.

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Approved For Release 2005/08/03 : CIA-RDP80B01139A000100070004-2

NPIC appears to have some need for COINS data and for such network experimentation because of their national intelligence data base responsibility in the imagery world. They will continue their current level of participation; hopefully the TK/H security issue can be resolved so that data available at NPIC can be more readily available to Community users through COINS.



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L. K. White

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